

learn to avoid all plants that may prick me. We proceed to class as "properties" the similarities, contiguities and sequences that were the fundamental points of attachment by which we first linked our impressions together. Similarity is figured as *relationship*, connection in space as *position*, sequence as *cause and effect*. I have learnt when using a slate that a squeak is caused by (that is to say, is preceded by) friction. I infer that the squeaking of a tram-car is also caused by friction. I suffered from headache when ascending a mountain. I infer that a balloon ascent would give me (that is to say, would be followed by) a headache. Prodigious have been the consequences to mankind, for evil as well as for good, of this assumption that the links of Inference are themselves properties. For, in discovering these links, we are not assisted by instinct, but are left to our powers of perception, and we are accordingly liable to great error. I may confuse the dream of a pain with an actual pain, and may wrongly infer that I need medical treatment. I may perceive the stars as lying close to one another, and may imagine that they are "pattens of bright gold" set in a crystal sphere. I may attribute an attack of Indigestion to lobster salad when it was really caused by champagne. We are especially liable to error when we see in happenings the property of being *causally* connected with what precedes them, since a happening is preceded not

by a single  
thing. but by a complicated tangle of  
things. out  
of which we are liable to make a wrong  
selection.  
and so to dignify as the "cause" of the  
happen-  
ing a thing which had in reality no  
connection  
with it. I may. for Instance. Infer that  
an old  
woman is a witch because I felt queerly  
when I  
passed her. and had read that  
witches. by the  
evil eye. could affect malignantly  
those who